



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 10, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Superintendents, Public Universities and Community Colleges, Public School Academy Authorizers and Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

**SUBJECT:** Announcement of 2008-09 Charter School Planning, Implementation and Dissemination Grant Opportunity

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) expects to receive from the United States Department of Education (USED) a grant award of approximately **\$7,978,981** for use during the 2008-09 school year to strengthen the pool of charter school developers in Michigan. Contingent on final approval of funds from USED (expected this month) three types of sub-grants are anticipated:

- 1) Upon notification during June or July by a qualified Michigan authorizer that a **development team is engaged in final negotiations of a charter contract leading to a Fall 2008 or a Fall 2009 opening**, those teams will be invited to compete for twelve-month planning grants or for twelve-month implementation grants with award dates of September 1, 2008. The competitive grant awards can be for up to \$160,000 in planning expenses, and successful completion of the planning grant qualifies the PSA to apply for further first and second year implementation funding of \$150,000 annually.
- 2) **Earlier stage PSA developers planning for a Fall 2010 opening** will be eligible to compete for eighteen-month planning grants with an award date of April 1, 2009. These competitive grant awards will also be up to \$160,000 in planning expenses, and successful completion of the planning grant, along with acquisition of a charter, will qualify the PSA to apply for further first and second year implementation funding of \$150,000 annually.

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Applications for these eighteen-month competitive 2008-2009 Charter School Planning/ Implementation Grant Program funding will be posted on the MDE's website ([www.michigan.gov/charters](http://www.michigan.gov/charters)) during July 2008. An informational meeting for eligible grant applicants will be held during September 2008. Please call the Public School Academy number noted below if you would like your name added to a list of interested parties who will be notified as information becomes available. The deadline for application is January 15, 2009. The applications will be available and must be submitted through the *Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS)*.

- 3) A portion of the 2008-2009 federal award (\$500,000) will be available to **charter schools that have been in operation for at least three (3) consecutive years** (i.e., are currently in their fourth year of operation, or longer), **have not already received a Dissemination Grant, and wish to propose activities intended to mentor a design team for a PSA** that is not yet open. Grant proposals of up to \$100,000 will be considered.

Eligible charter schools have been identified and posted on the MDE's website ([www.michigan.gov/charters](http://www.michigan.gov/charters)). Individual information sessions are available for eligible applicants as needed and can be scheduled by calling the Public School Academy number below. The deadline for application submission is July 10, 2008. The applications are now available and must be submitted through MEGS.

Questions regarding the Charter School Grant should be directed to Joann Neuroth in the Office of School Improvement, Public School Academy Program, at 517-373-4631.